

6 merging the first partially filled ATM cell and the second partially filled
7 ATM cell into a third ATM cell having a header that includes information
8 indicative of the number of partially filled ATM cells contained within the third
9 ATM cell.

1 3. (Amended) A method for merging partially filled ATM cells as in
2 claim 2 wherein the header of said third ATM cell [comprises header] further
3 includes information required to reconstruct the partially filled ATM cells
4 contained within the third ATM cell [at a receiving end].

1 14. (Amended) An ATM network, comprising:
2 a first node configured to identify partially filled ATM cells within an
3 ATM cell stream passing through the first node and to merge two or more of the
4 partially filled ATM cells in the cell stream into a merged cell, the merged cell
5 having a header that includes information indicative of the number of partially
6 filled ATM cells contained within the merged cell; and
7 a second node coupled to the first node and configured to identify a
8 merged ATM cells and to split the merged ATM cell into two or more partially
9 filled ATM cells.

1 SUB 33/ [Please add new claims 21-23 as follows.]

1 21. (New) An ATM cell, comprising:
2 a payload including information from two or more partially filled ATM
3 cells; and